

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SP-02 SAM-01

IO-13 /066 W

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O R 151541Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7022

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6215

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VT, LE

SUBJ: VATICAN MISSION TO BEIRUT

1. VATICAN MIDDLE EAST EXPERT, MSGR. MONTERISI, CALLED TODAY TO INFORM US THAT FOUR-MAN VATICAN MISSION WILL DEPART APRIL 16 FOR BEIRUT.

2. MISSION, HEADED BY ARCHBISHOP MARIO BRINI, SECRETARY OF CONGREGATION FOR ORIENTAL CHURCHES, WILL INCLUDE FATHER DE RIEDMATTEN, SECRETARY OF "COR UNUM", MSGR. MONTERISI OF VATICAN COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS (FOREIGN OFFICE), AND FR. MARCO BROGI OF THE CONGREGATION FOR ORIENTAL CHURCHES.

3. MISSION WILL ENDEAVOR TO OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE ASSESSMENT OF POLITICAL SITUATION AND REASSESS HUMANITARIAN AND RECONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS. IT HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH CHRISTIAN AND MOSLEM LEADERS, AS WELL AS WITH OTHER PARTIES CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN RESOLVING LEBANESE CRISIS. MONTERISI SAID THAT THEY WILL SEEK MEETING WITH U.S. EMBASSY THROUGH APOSTOLIC NUNCIO IN BEIRUT.

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4. COMMENT: VATICAN HAD HOPED REVIVE CARDINAL BERTOLI MISSION, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THE CARDINAL IS STILL RECUPERATING OUTSIDE ROME FROM RECENT OPERATION. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT PRESIDENT SADAT, DURING HIS APRIL 8 VISIT TO VATICAN, URGED A MORE ACTIVE VATICAN ROLE IN LEBANON TO PREVENT SITUATION FROM FURTHER DETERIORATION.VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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